(c) the expenses involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) It has been the consistent endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs to adequately equip all Indian missions abroad with up-to-date information and publicity materials so that they can project a positive image of the country effectively highlighting our stand on various issues of importance to the international community. The missions, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, work to well-defined action plans that encompass, *inter-alia*, close contracts with opinion-makers, dissemination of materials and information, maintenance of websites, talks and seminars, press briefings and so on. Adequate budget for publicity are provided to the missions.

Sending abroad on fake visas

†3041. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of culprits arrested this year for their involvement in sending persons abroad on fake visas and what action has been taken against them;

(b) the plan formulated by Government to prevent this offence; and

(c) what are the reasons that active gangs are still out of clutches and the incidents of fake visas come to light every other day and people are being cheated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Since this is a police matter, the information is being sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the table of the House when made available by that Ministry.

Declaration of oil field services as public utility services

3042. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has declared services in oil fields as public utility services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are going to be extended to the workers as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Labour *vide* Notification dated 16.10.2002 has declared services in oil fields as public utility service in public interests for a period of six months, under sub-clause (vi) of clause(n) of Section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) Workmen employed in any public utility service are entitled to the following protection/benefit under Section 22(2) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947:—

Employer carrying on any public utility service shall not declare lock-out of any of his workmen—

(i) without giving them notice of lock-out as hereinafter provided, within six weeks before locking-out; or

(ii) within fourteen days of giving such notice; or

(iii) before the expiry of the date of lock-out specified in any such notice as aforesaid; or

(iv) during the pendency of any conciliation proceedings before a conciliation officer and seven days after the conclusion of such proceedings.

100 days employment to workers

†3043. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the number of workers who got employment for 100 days or less during the nineties in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.